

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Selected Events January - June 2009



July 4th Reception At NRW Landtag Celebrates German-American Friendship

June 24, 2009. The Consulate marked Independence Day early this year, celebrating with the NRW parliament in Duesseldorf on June 24 as a "Parliamentary Evening." In her welcome address to the ca. 600 guests, Landtag President Regina van Dinther stressed that the event further strengthens the state's excellent relationship with the United

States and thanked departing Consul General Matt Boyse and Commercial Office director Ed Fantasia for their exemplary contributions to the transatlantic partnership. In his remarks, the CG praised the outstanding cooperation with the great number and variety of partner institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia. In a "departing message" after three years in NRW, he commented that neither country can afford to take the bilateral relationship for granted and must give it continued close attention and strong support. The evening also featured a panel discussion, a segment by American comedian [John Doyle](#), as well as musical performances by the [Miss Behavin' \(Country\) Band](#), Henry's Jazzmen, and "Elvis." American mezzo-soprano [Stephanie Woodling](#) sang the American and the German national anthems, flanked by a U.S. army color guard. | [Photo Gallery](#) | [Videoclip](#) (Center.TV/Rheinische Post)



Recognizing Commitment To German-American Friendship

June 24, 2009. The Consulate's celebration of Independence Day at the NRW Landtag on June 24 was the fitting occasion to acknowledge the activities of three organizations that are active in promoting German-American exchanges. Consul General Matt Boyse used the event to present Ambassador's Certificates of Appreciation to the German-

American Society Ostwestfalen Lippe, the [Heimatverein Verl](#) for supporting the sister city partnership with Delphos (OH) and to the [International Club Hamm](#) for promoting the city's partnerships with Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Santa Monica in California. Consul General Boyse noted the significance that private-public organizations play in strengthening the bilateral partnership.



Art Collector Richard Feigen Discusses The U.S. Art Market

June 23, 2009. On June 23, Consul General Matt Boyse hosted a "morning coffee" at his residence for renowned [New York art dealer and collector Richard Feigen](#), who offered an overview of the impact of the economic and financial crisis on the U.S. art market. The audience of representatives of the Duesseldorf-Cologne art community, among them many art dealers and museum curators, had many questions, for example

on how museums are dealing with financial constraints and about the emergence of New York as the main international art market. Co-sponsored by the [Amerika Haus Verein](#), this event was a

special opportunity to discuss Arts America and German-American artistic exchange.



A Busy Week For Education USA

June 17 – 21, 2009. Education USA specialist Petra Spitz was on the road this week to engage students at exchanges fairs in [Cologne](#), [Aachen](#) and [Essen](#). At Cologne's University of Applied Sciences on June 19, Spitz provided information to students interested to spend a study year abroad. On June 20, she participated in an exchanges fair for students and their parents that took place at Aachen University's technology center organized by the International Education Network. And on June 21, Spitz presented a lecture at a well-attended fair in Essen where she was much in demand to provide advice about spending a high school year in the United States, study at an American college or participate in one of the Work & Travel programs. A total of 1,800 students attended the three exchanges events. |

[Education USA](#)



More Pennsylvania-NRW Cooperation

June 19, 2009. Representatives from the government of Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia made presentations at a June 19 conference at the NRW Ministry of Economics and Energy to deepen cooperation in the renewable energy area. A representative of the Philadelphia office of [German-American Dialogue on Renewable Energy \(GADORE\)](#) also participated.

Consul General Matt Boyse gave an overview of the partnership between the two states as well as the Administration's renewable energy priorities. | [White House > Issues > Energy & Environment](#)



Concert Pays Tribute To American Composer Amy Beach

June 18, 2009. American composer [Amy Beach](#) (1867-1944) was celebrated in a concert in the Westphalian city of Unna on June 18, sponsored by the Consulate. Born in New Hampshire, Beach was the first successful American female composer of large-scale art music. The event was dedicated to encounters with women composers representing three centuries and also included works by Clara Schumann, Lili Boulanger as well as contemporary composer [Elisenda Fabregas](#). Performed by

Christiane Meininger (flute), Rainer Gepp (Piano) and countertenor Joerg Waschinski, the concert introduced an important American composer worth rediscovering.



50 Years In Germany: U.S. Company Xerox

June 18, 2009. On June 18, Consul General Matt Boyse joined Xerox CEO Anne Mulcahy in Neuss to mark a half century of the firm's presence in Germany at an event with more than 300 guests. While the Xerox executive reviewed the firm's evolution from a manufacturer of office equipment to a provider of sophisticated document management and other office technology solutions, the Consul General stressed the positive

role U.S. investors like Xerox play in NRW and Germany more generally and in relations between the two countries. He added that Xerox innovations like the invention of the copy machine have so influenced our world that it has become impossible for our economies to function without them. "A firm knows that it has made history when it becomes a verb," he said.



Study USA Event At Aachen University

June 17, 2009. "Go-Out – Ways to Study Abroad" was the motto of an information week devoted to international exchange programs at [Technical University Aachen](#). The University's International Office and Career Center hosted the event, supported by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). As part of the information week, the

Consulate's [Education USA](#) specialist Petra Spitz presented a lecture on study opportunities in the US on June 16 in which she also explained how to apply for an internship in the U.S. | [Information on Studying in the U.S.](#)



"Meet Us" Outreach Focuses On U.S. Society and the New Administration

June 3 – 10, 2009. "Diplomat ready to answer questions" was the headline of a report in Duerener Zeitung on June 11 referring to a discussion of Consul Chris Grossman with students at the [Rurtal Gymnasium in Dueren](#). He also traveled to [Guetersloh](#) on June 8 to speak to students at the local

high school which has enjoyed an active exchange with Portage High School in Wisconsin for 30 years. On June 3, the consulate hosted a group of 12th graders and teachers from the [Luise Gymnasium Duesseldorf](#) at the consulate where the focus of the discussion was on the worldwide economic crisis. In all instances the students and their teachers welcomed the opportunity that a U.S. diplomat took time to discuss a wide range of issues with them. | ["Meet US" School Outreach Program](#)



Consul General Hosts Discussion On Prospects For A Nuclear Weapon Free World

June 9, 2009. President Obama's April 5 Prague Speech on "Nuclear Free World" was the inspiration for a June 9 evening discussion with members of the new NRW chapter of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) in Duesseldorf hosted by Consul General Matt Boyse. The guests

agreed that the speech provided a major new impulse for the international arms control agenda. After the Consul General provided an overview of the Administration's ambitious agenda Dr. Stefan Kordash (Foreign Office, Berlin) presented the official German position, with Jerry Sommer (Bonn International Conversion Center) representing a more critical NGO view. The discussion revealed considerable support for the Administration's arms control priorities, including with bilateral negotiations with Russia, but also a strong awareness of other threats: terrorist groups, instability, and state actors like North Korea and Iran.



"New President, New Opportunities" Examined In Wuppertal

June 9, 2009. The [Rotary Club in Wuppertal](#) invited Consul General Matt Boyse to speak about the bilateral relationship on June 9. In a pre-event discussion, Club leaders said the United States remains by far the most popular destination for German applicants to Rotary student exchange programs. In his remarks, the CG outlined to the 40 members the main

changes in U.S. foreign policy, stressing the need for more joint efforts by major countries and the international community more generally in crisis and other high priority areas.



Enthusiasm for President Obama's Cairo Speech to the Muslim World

June 4, 2009. Leaders of national Muslim religious organizations and representatives of Turkish, interfaith dialogue, media and integration organizations joined Consulate staff in watching President Obama's Cairo address to the Muslim world live on June 4 in Duesseldorf. Participants were unanimous in their enthusiasm about its content and tone, with one senior leader commenting that the speech went far to "heal the wounded Muslim soul." There was broad agreement that the speech dealt with the most important issues between the U.S. and the diversity of the Muslim world in a balanced and sophisticated manner. Most importantly, they welcomed the fact that the speech's positive messages were delivered by the President of the United States.



Consul General Welcomes The "Young Americans" At His Residence

May 21, 2009. Consul General Matt Boyse, in conjunction with the Duesseldorf "Sterntaler" charity organization, hosted a reception at his residence on May 21 for members of the [Young Americans](#), the California-based group of cultural ambassadors from across the U.S. The reception was an opportunity to alert over 100 community leaders, politicians, educators and representatives of the business community to the special music and dance projects of the group. The reception was occasioned by workshops conducted of the young performers at [Hauptschule Rather Kreuzweg](#) in Duesseldorf where the American musicians and dancers worked with the students for several days, concluding with a rousing performance on May 24. | [The "Young Americans" in Germany](#) | [Article Rheinische Post](#)



Enormous Interest At Exchanges Fair in Muenster

May 19, 2009. On May 19, the Consulate's [Education USA](#) specialist Petra Spitz participated in the "Horizonte 2009" student fair at Muenster University. In the course of the daylong event, approx. 4000 students visited the information booths in the foyer of the university's main lobby to gather information material and ask specific questions. As part of the event, Petra Spitz also presented a 45-minute lecture about "Study in the United States" in the auditorium which was well attended.



Dealing With Stereotypes and Prejudice About America

May 17 – 19, 2009. At a reception and lecture/discussion events at the universities of Duesseldorf, Essen and in Duisburg on May 17-19, [Columbia University Associate Professor of Germanic Literature Michael Eskin](#) discussed popular attitudes towards the United States. Drawing on his book (published by the Upper West Side Press in New York in German under his pen name Misha Waiman) "17 Prejudices That We Germans hold Against America and Americans That Can't Quite be True," Eskin offered a humorous but also incisive commentary on common biased views about the U.S. found in contemporary German society. He argued that they are not a result of a lack of knowledge but persist despite factual information to the contrary – in keeping with the observation of German philosopher Edmund Husserl that "deep-seated prejudice is stronger by far than the most convincing evidence to the contrary."



Rain or Shine, U.S. National Boys U-15 Soccer Team in NRW

May 16, 2009. Undeterred by heavy rain, the [U.S. Boys Under-15](#) national soccer team began its weeklong program in Moenchengladbach on May 16. Consul General Matt Boyse welcomed the players from across the United States at the start of a rigorous training and playing schedule with German youth teams in NRW. German hosts warmly received the American team, with its coaches, physicians, trainers and coordinators, as

they began their work with German trainers and teams.



New President, New Chances: Transatlantic Relations Under Obama

May 13, 2009. "New President, New Chances: Transatlantic Relations Under Obama " was the title of a speech Consul General Matt Boyse delivered at a meeting of the Friends and Supporters of the [Industry Museum Cromford in Ratingen](#) on May 13. The Consul General emphasized the

new Administration's fresh approach to the EU and Europe, stressing its support for a strong partnership in order to resolve many issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. The museum is located in a textile factory that is the oldest recorded factory on the European continent. | [Article Rheinische Post](#)



"New President – New Chances? European-American Relations In The Obama Administration"

May 8, 2009. This was the title of two talks Consul General Matt Boyse gave on May 8 to groups in Westphalia as part of the [Konrad Adenauer Foundation's](#) programming during the annual early May "Europe Week." At both events, he emphasized the new Administration's fresh approach

to the EU and Europe, emphasizing its support for a strong partner in Europe and the EU in order to cooperate on a host of issues of bilateral and multilateral interest. In Paderborn, Consul General Boyse addressed a group of about 100 students and civil servants from about ten EU member states who were at the [Westfalen-Kolleg](#) as guests of the Foundation. In Dortmund later that day, he shared the podium with MEP Dr. Christoph Konrad (CDU), Foundation representatives Dr. Ludger Gruber and Dr. Marco Arndt, and Heinz Miko from the European Commission Bonn office at a public gathering, primarily students and interested citizens, and Dortmund Chamber of Commerce and Industry guests. | [Article Neue Westfaelische Paderborn](#)



Happy Birthday Israel!

May 7, 2009. On the occasion of the 61st Israel Day, Consul General Matt Boyse joined Duesseldorf Lord Mayor Dirk Elbers, Jewish community leader Juan Strauss, and hundreds of others in a public celebration on the Burgplatz on the Rhine. In his remarks, the Consul General highlighted Israel's many achievements since achieving independence, expressed the support and solidarity of the American people for Israel and the Israeli

people, read President Obama's greetings for Israel Day, and stressed that the new Administration has made progress on the Israel-Palestine issue a major priority.



Consul General Signs Golden Book In Monschau

May 6, 2009. On May 6, a team of the U.S. Consulate visited the "Eifel" region, where the Battle of the Bulge offensive took place in 1944. The tour was highlighted by a reception hosted by the Mayor of Monschau, Theo Steinroex, at the historic "Rotes Haus," where he emphasized that to the people in Monschau the arrival of U.S. troops in September 1944 not only meant liberation from the Nazis, but also saving the city's medieval heritage. Steinroex credited the arrival and presence of the U.S. military in his town as the primary reason why it was spared destruction and was able to preserve its centuries-old architecture as a former center of the manufacture of fine fabrics. At the conclusion of the reception, CG Matt Boyse signed the "Golden Book" of [Monschau](#).



Students In Siegen Learn About U.S. Exchange Opportunities

May 5, 2009. On May 5, the [German-American Association Siegerland-Wittgenstein](#) hosted an information event on high school exchange opportunities in the U.S. on May. The speaker was the consulate's [Education USA](#) specialist Petra Spitz who presented an overview of entitled: "Ways to the U.S. – High School Year - Au Pair – Internship - Study". Her presentation was complemented by first-hand accounts by two exchange students from the University of Giessen, who had participated in a three-month internship at a veterinarian clinic in Knoxville, TN. The students were very positive about their internships and also explained how their experiences had influenced their personal and professional future.



First 100 Days Of The Obama Administration

May 4, 2009. "100 Days Obama: A Different America?" was the theme of a May 4 panel discussion in Siegen organized by the [University of Siegen](#) and the [German-American Association of Siegerland-Wittgenstein](#). Siegener Zeitung Chief Editor Dieter Sobotka, Atlantic Networks Director Dr. Andrew Denison, and Amerika Haus e.V. NRW Director Eveline Metzen joined moderator Prof. Dr. Christian Struenck, Consul General Matt Boyse and an audience of students and interested citizens in assessing the program and progress of the new administration, as well as its challenges, both domestic and foreign. The evening also provided an opportunity for the Consulate to expand its cooperation with Siegen University. | [Article Siegener Zeitung](#)



Celebrating 40 Years Of Student Exchanges

May 1, 2009. 400 alumni and friends gathered at the Rheinterrasse in Cologne on May 1 to mark the 40 years the U.S. exchange organization [ASSIST](#) has been active in Germany. Alumni and friends Christoph Heusgen, National Security Advisor to Chancellor Merkel, Friedrich Merz, Bundestag Member, and Martina Fietz, Parliamentary Correspondent for Cicero Magazine, participated in a public discussion of German-American relations, with Cologne Lord Mayor Fritz Schramma welcoming guests from across Germany. U.S.-based ASSIST Board Members joined Director of Alumni Affairs Eleanore Boyse at the event. ASSIST has provided some 2,400 German high school students with merit scholarships to U.S. independent schools since its establishment in 1969. | [Education USA > Information on High School Exchanges](#)



The Obama Administration's First 100 Days

April 30, 2009. Almost 100 guests attended the "Aachen Economic Conversation" hosted by the [Aachen Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) and the [Rhenish-Westphalian Technical University \(RWTH\)](#) on April 30. In his remarks, Consul General Matt Boyse reviewed President Obama's domestic economic and reform initiatives and foreign policy priorities,

drawing particular attention to the differences between the Obama and Bush Administrations. Participants expressed particular interest in economic issues, including U.S. trade, financial and currency policies. This invitation offered an opportunity to share views with a variety of regional business and political leaders, including candidates for elective office, from the larger Aachen region.



Engaging Junior Civil Servants in Bruehl Revitalized Transatlantic Relations

April 30, 2009. Continuing the consulate's cooperation with the [Federal College of Public Administration in Bruehl](#), program director Bernd Herbert reviewed the first one hundred days of the Obama Administration at a lecture/discussion event on April 30. Outlining the Administration's

initiatives, immediate priorities, and medium and longer term goals, both foreign and domestic, Herbert explained the prospects for expanded transatlantic cooperation under President Obama. The civil servants enrolled in special training in Bruehl were also interested in the mechanics of what the transition to a new Administration entails in terms of personnel changes and the confirmation process.



Sharing Perspectives On Competition Policy

April 30, 2009. [U.S. Federal Trade Commission](#) Senior Counselor for EU Affairs John Parisi visited Duesseldorf on April 30 to meet with German experts on competition policy ("Kartellrecht"). At a lunch hosted by Consul General Matt Boyse and attended by senior lawyers and government officials as well as journalists for national business publications, Parisi described the combination of continuity and change that observers can expect from the Obama Administration.



The First 100 Days Of The Obama Administration

April 28, 2009. At an April 28 meeting of the Duesseldorf Banking Association, Consul General Matt Boyse outlined the Administration's initiatives, immediate priorities, and medium and longer term goals, both foreign and domestic to a group of 20 senior bankers. Given the group's focus on financial issues, the Consul General explained the thinking

behind the Administration's steps to move the U.S. economy on a path of positive growth again and reorient it towards. He also reiterated calls for more vigorous stimulus packages by Germany and other states. | [White House Agenda > Economy](#) | [Council of Economic Advisors Factsheet: First 100 Days](#)



U.S. Expert Discusses Energy Security In Duesseldorf And Essen

April 27, 2009. [Edward Chow](#), senior fellow at the [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) Energy Program, engaged German experts on energy issues in Duesseldorf and Essen on April 27. At a roundtable hosted by the Energy Agency, Chow reviewed current thinking in Washington on energy issues, noting the great potential for saving energy

in the U.S. and a greater emphasis on renewables. His interlocutors briefed Chow on energy

strategies in NRW, which accounts for 30% of German electricity generation and 40% of electricity consumption. During a discussion at the energy company E.ON Ruhrgas in Essen, Chow and his hosts considered energy security, specifically EU efforts to ensure uninterrupted flows of gas as well as the prospects for diversification.



International Symposium In Dortmund Pays Tribute To Carl Djerassi

April 23 - 25, 2009. Carl Djerassi's literary work was the focus of a 3-day international symposium at Dortmund University, April 23-25. The university conferred an honorary doctorate on Djerassi not for his scientific achievements as a chemistry professor at Stanford, but for his more than 25 years as a novelist and playwright. Numerous panelists, many of them former colleagues, examined Djerassi's major themes: interdisciplinary questions between culture and the natural sciences, transatlantic cultural phenomena as well as the legacy of German-language exiles in the United States. The symposium was hosted by American studies Professor Walter Gruenzweig and sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and Consulate General Duesseldorf.



"America Evening" With Chamber Of Commerce

April 23, 2009. The Duesseldorf Chamber of Commerce and Industry invited Consul General Matt Boyse and Commercial Officer Ed Fantasia to lead an "America Evening" with representatives from business and the Consular Corps in Langenfeld on April 23. Against a backdrop of logos showing just a fraction of the 772 U.S. investors in North Rhine-Westphalia and the more than 1000 German investors in the United States, the Consul General summarized the extraordinary reach of U.S. firms and their contributions to the region. He added that the Obama Administration would continue open trade policies and attempted to dispel concerns about travel restrictions. Ed Fantasia explained the Department of Commerce's "Invest in America" program, the impetus of which came from Consulate General Duesseldorf in 2007.



The Continuing Importance Of Abraham Lincoln

April 21 & 22, 2009. At program events in Muenster on April 21 and 22, Ronald C. White, author of a new and bestselling biography on Lincoln, introduced the 16th U.S. president focusing on Lincoln's talent and skill as an orator. He also drew meaningful parallels between Lincoln and President Barack Obama as public speakers. At a seminar for educators, White discussed selected passages from key speeches that document Lincoln's craft as an orator and writer and particularly the notion that the key to effective public communication is the integrity of the speaker. This theme was also at the core of Professor White's public lecture at Muenster University's History Department. Both events, occasioned by the Lincoln Bicentennial in 2009, were opportunities to review a key period in American history and to explain the continuing significance of Abraham Lincoln to this day. | [Lincoln Bicentennial](#) | [Publication: "Abraham Lincoln: A Legacy of Freedom"](#)



"Trade Talk" April 2009 cover.
Photo: Stephanie Siegel

"Trade Talk" Business Magazine Features Interview with Consul General

April 2009. "We are all sitting in the same boat" was how the new magazine "Trade Talk," published by [Wirtschaftsclub Duesseldorf](#), titled a recent interview with Consul General Matt Boyse in its April 2009 issue.

In this cover story, the CG commented i.e. that while the origins of the financial crisis were in the U.S., its causes were much broader and can be traced to many international developments and many countries. He highlighted the Obama Administration's interest in improving consultation and cooperation with Germany and early visits by senior officials to Germany. He also reviewed the enormous range and depth of economic relations between NRW and the United States, stressing the benefits to

both societies of close trade and investment ties. | [Read the complete interview with CG Boyse conducted by Editor-in-Chief Dieter Knaut](#)



Major American Scientific Magazine Features NRW's Biotech Industry

April 2009. A special 90-page supplement to the April issue of the American monthly journal "The Scientist" takes an in-depth look at how North Rhine-Westphalia's (NRW) focus on innovation -- and a concerted regional

effort by political, business, academic and scientific leaders -- has helped the state become a major biotech region in Europe and in an international context. The supplement, developed by noted German science writer Joachim Pietzsch, emphasizes policy, industry and research and profiles the key players, institutions, organizations and companies that form this growing sector of the NRW economy. | [NRW: Biotechnology in North Rhine-Westphalia, The Scientist, April 2009](#)



The United States as an Emigration Destination

April 2, 2009. Curiosity about and interest in emigrating to the United States continues in Germany, as indicated by several "how to" books for would-be immigrants published in recent years. On April 2 in Duesseldorf, Consul General Matt Boyse appeared live on [NRW.TV](#) with Julia Krausen, author of "My New Life – America: Advice on Immigration, Life and Work in the United States." The two compared perspectives on

the opportunities and the challenges of starting a new life in America, with its many similarities to Germany and its many differences. In the 45-minute conversation, during which moderator Jan-Philipp Mueller entertained questions from viewers, it was clear that the idea of moving to the United States remains attractive to many Germans, even during economically more difficult times. | [Visa Information](#) | [About the USA > Germans in America](#) | [U.S. Society > A Nation of Immigrants](#) |



Engaging with the German public on the future of NATO

April 1, 2009. On the eve of the Strasbourg/Kehl/Baden-Baden Summit, the daily [Rheinische Post](#) and Duesseldorf [Institute for Foreign and Security Policy \(DIAS\)](#) hosted 100 persons to its "Capital Talk" series on April 1 in Duesseldorf, for a discussion of "Does NATO have a Future?" Former

Director of the German Defense Ministry's Policy Planning Office Vice Admiral Ulrich Weisser, EU Parliamentarian Dr. Silvana Koch-Mehrin (FDP), and Dr. Dimitrios Agirakos joined Consul General Matt Boyse on the panel, hosted by Sven Goessman, Rheinische Post Chief Editor. In the wide-ranging discussion, which covered Afghanistan, Russia, Georgia, and issues new to NATO like cyber security and energy, the CG stressed that the need for and

value of NATO has not diminished since the end of the Cold War. The alliance will adapt to new threats and challenges, as well as internal differences between members, as in the past, through analysis, debate and consensus. Boyse urged participants not to exaggerate or dramatize these differences, as the alliance has faced many over the decades and overcome them all. | [60 Years of NATO](#) | [NATO Summit web site](#) | [NATO Summit background information](#) |



U.S. Writer John Griesemer Engages Audience at Reading in Duesseldorf

March 31, 2009. John Griesemer, whose new novel "[Herzschlag](#)" has been widely and favorably reviewed in Germany, gave an excellent reading from the book in Duesseldorf on March 31. The audience was captivated by the novel's main characters, its New York setting around September 11, 2001 and the author's engaging reading performance. In between reading passages from his book Griesemer offered interesting insights to moderator David Eisermann about his connections to Germany, American life and contemporary literature and how both were affected by 9/11.



Economics, Economics, Economics

March 30, 2009. In the latest "[Decision Makers in Dialogue](#)" event organized by Peter Dehnen, Consul General Matt Boyse engaged with senior representatives from business, law and the creative sector on March 30 in Duesseldorf. What was originally billed as a conversation on the Obama Administration's early directions turned into a long and wide-ranging discussion of the financial and economic crisis, its causes and remedies, implications for the United States, Germany and other countries, demonstrating the intense interest in these issues in Germany. Quoting President Obama that "America bears our share of responsibility for the mess," the CG observed that developments in other countries have shown that the crisis also has causes external to the United States. More fiscal stimulus programs and regulatory reform will be needed in many countries to fix existing problems and return the global economy to growth.



Doing Business in the United States

March 24, 2009. On March 24, Principal Commercial Officer Ed Fantasia joined German TV journalist Dr. Peter Frey at a panel discussion attended by some 140 representatives from German industry on "Doing business in the USA." The program, organized by the Sparkasse regional savings bank in Aachen, featured the USA as a business and investment location in the current economic and political climate. Fantasia presented the "[Invest in America](#)" program, fielded questions and engaged in one-on-one counseling with firms from the machine tool, metalworking and electronic sectors, among others. A number of investment leads were generated and follow-up events are planned.



Cologne Has Friends in Indianapolis

March 24, 2009. "[COLOGNE HAS FRIENDS IN INDIANAPOLIS](#)" was the title of a movie shown on March 24 in the Cologne City Hall at an event hosted by the [Cologne-Indianapolis sister city association](#) and the City of Cologne. The two have been connected through a sister-city partnership that celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2008. A delegation from Cologne, headed by Deputy Mayor Angela Spizig, traveled to Indianapolis in Fall 2008 to celebrate the anniversary and produced this 45-minute film. In his address, Consul General Matt Boyse emphasized the importance of private engagement in maintaining lively

partnerships. Former Cologne Lord Mayor Dr. Norbert Burger received a blanket from the Chief of the Miami Indian tribe in Indianapolis as appreciation for his role in initiating the partnership in 1988.



„America Evening“ with Heinrich Heine

March 22, 2009. On March 22, the Düsseldorf-based [Heinrich Heine Kreis](#) hosted an “America evening” under the patronage of Consul General Matt Boyse. Among the 240 guests in attendance were the Lord Mayors of Düsseldorf, Cologne and four other NRW cities, as well as leaders from law, business, medicine and culture. The Heine Circle is devoted to the memory of the famous German poet, a statue to whom is located in Manhattan, and is headed by President Karl-Heinz Theisen. The sibling

pianists Ekaterina and Alexander Kolodochka enchanted the audience with selections from George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein, followed by a dinner with American specialties and an on-stage interview with the CG discussing the new Administration’s policies.



T.C. Boyle Fascinates Audiences in Cologne

March 21, 2009. Two readings by American writer [T.C. Boyle](#) on March 21 were a highlight of the second week of this year’s literature festival “[lit.COLOGNE](#)”. Some 1,600 people attended the two readings with the prolific author whose fascination with influential American personalities (McCormick, Kellogg, Kinsey, and F.L. Wright) has resulted in compelling fictional biographies. In engaging fashion, Boyle read and discussed

passages from his 12th novel “The Women” which focuses on the life and loves of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as his views on living in the 21st century. Fans of Boyle’s work engaged the author in a book-signing marathon long after the readings were finished. |

[Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger Interview with T.C. Boyle](#) | [Article Koelnische Rundschau](#) | [Video clip Interview with T.C. Boyle](#)



Cologne Literature Festival Featured Leading Voices In American Literature

March 12 – 21, 2009. From March 12 -21, the city of Cologne hosted Europe's largest literature festival. The [9th lit.COLOGNE](#) featured a top selection of U.S. authors who represent a wide variety of contemporary

American writing and are among the highlights of the event. The ten-day program included readings with award-winning American writers including Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Diaz (March 13), Adam Davies (March 14), Nicholson Baker (March 15), Willy Vlautin (March 13), Charlie Huston (March 16), Michael Connolly (March 12), Holly-Jane Rahlens (March 18), Gay Talese (March 19), Jeffrey Deaver (March 20), T.C. Boyle (March 21) and Shalom Auslander (March 21). The readings and discussions showcased the diversity of American literature but also offered opportunities to engage the audiences in discussions on American society and politics. | [Lit.colony](#)

(festival website)) [Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger](#) | [Koelnische Rundschau](#) | [more press clips](#) | [Videoclip Interview with T.C. Boyle](#)



Educational Workshops On The Civil Rights Movement At Rosa Parks School In Herten

March 20, 2009. [Kimberly Phillips](#), Professor of History at the College of William and Mary, conducted two American studies workshops in the city of Herten on March 20, one for senior students and one for a group 25 teachers of English and History in the afternoon. The [Rosa Parks comprehensive school](#), named by the students and faculty as a tribute to

the civil rights leader, was the congenial venue of the workshops. Professor Phillips offered an absorbing review of the struggle for civil rights in the U.S. in her well-documented PowerPoint presentations. Herten Mayor Ulrich Paetzel welcomed Professor Phillips personally in Herten (see photo.) | [Classroom package for teachers: African American Oral Traditions and Political Activism: The Struggle for Civil Rights From 1960 to the Elections of President Obama](#)



Making Sense of the Economic Crisis

March 16, 2009. "The Finance Crisis and its Consequences" was the subject of a March 16 evening podium discussion in Dortmund featuring speakers Consul General Matt Boyse, Ulrich Leitermann, Chief Financial Officer of Signal Iduna, and MdB Erich Fritz (CDU). Hosted by the [Auslandsgesellschaft NRW](#), the [Institute for Political Education](#), and the [Konrad Adenauer Foundation](#), the discussants compared views on the causes and implications of the economic and financial crisis. The CG, supported by the insurance industry executive, encouraged the audience to regard the crisis as a result of many factors that went wrong in many countries. Only by accurately assessing the sources is it possible to devise proper responses and ensure that such a crisis does not reoccur.



Pulitzer-Prize Winner Junot Díaz Reads in Cologne

March 13, 2009. Lit.Cologne and the U.S. Consulate General presented Dominican-American writer [Junot Díaz](#) who read from his novel "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" for which he received the Pulitzer Prize in 2008. In his novel, Diaz breaks new ground by easily moving between Afro-Latino ethnicities and his American identity formed in urban New Jersey. More than 100 literature buffs enjoyed the German-American reading with German actress Jasmin Tabatabai and Junot Díaz at Cologne's Literaturkirche. Diaz is also prominently featured in the current State Department eJournal "[Multicultural Literature in the United States Today](#)" with an interview and article on Afro-Latino fiction. The Díaz reading highlighted the imaginative and vibrant contributions authors with diverse ethnic backgrounds have made to the canon of American literature.



Chargé D'Affaires John Koenig Explains Administration Policies During Visit In Westphalia

March 4, 2009. At the start of a day-long visit to Westphalia on March 4, [Chargé John M. Koenig](#), accompanied by Consul General Matt Boyse, was welcomed by Muenster Lord Mayor Dr. Berthold Tillmann in the historic "Hall of Peace" where he was briefed on the city's history and connections with the United States. Following an exchange of views at the Muenster HQ of the U.S. pharmaceutical giant Wyeth, Mr. Koenig explained foreign and economic policies of the Obama Administration at roundtable discussion hosted by the Westfaelische Nachrichten newspaper in Muenster and later at the offices of Neue Westfaelische in Bielefeld. Concluding the visit, Chargé Koenig gave a speech at an event hosted by the Bielefeld office of Deutsche Bank where he discussed current economic challenges in greater detail. | [Article in Westfaelische Nachrichten](#) | [Videoclip](#)



Series of Workshops in Support of Black History Month

March 04, 2009. American exchange teacher LaSean Brown, a native of Atlanta, GA, conducted three workshops for high school students in North Rhine-Westphalia that examined the civil rights movement, part of the consulate's programming in support of Black History Month. In PowerPoint presentations Brown reviewed African-American music of the 19th and 20th century in [Wilnsdorf](#), [Gladbeck](#) and [Cologne](#) and also performed traditional "freedom songs." Trained in classical voice at Morehouse College, Brown asked his audiences to sing along and to "experience" the importance of music as part of the civil rights movement. The combination of informative lecture and sing-along gave a special dimension to these workshops. | [Article in Westfaelische Allgemeine Zeitung](#) | ["Meet US" School Outreach Program](#)



U.S. Journalist Discusses U.S. Media And The Obama Administration

March 3, 2009. [Jonathan Ebinger](#), lecturer on media issues at George Washington University and a former producer for the ABC news program "Nightline," was the speaker at two program events in Duesseldorf on March 3. After discussing new developments in the U.S. media world at a meeting hosted by Juergen Brautmeier of the [NRW Media Authority](#), Ebinger gave a lecture at an evening event co-sponsored by [Media Academy of the Protestant Church](#) on how the U.S. media have responded to Barack Obama as candidate and president. Ebinger offered specific information and pertinent examples of the way in which the Obama administration is engaging the media and also on the interaction between mainstream media and internet-based media, including social media. The audience of journalists and academics engaged the speaker in a discussion on the overall impact of the new media, on how President Obama is taking advantage of his considerable media attention to rally support for his agenda and whether he will be able to sustain his popularity over time.



Consul General Participates In Transatlantic Media Dialogue

March 2 & 3, 2009. Consul General Matt Boyse addressed participants in two conferences on transatlantic media issues hosted by the [North Rhine Westphalia Media Authority](#) on March 2 and 3 in Duesseldorf. German and American experts explored two important issues on "The Future of Advertising in the Media" and on "Labeling of Online Content." Both conferences were part of the series of transatlantic dialogues on current media and information technology issues. In his remarks at the events, Consul General Matt Boyse welcomed the commitment of the experts from the media industry to take a pro-active role in developing clear and sensible guidelines for their products in order to avoid counterproductive regulation. | [Program and Presentations](#) | [Photo Gallery](#)



Business Meets Diplomacy In Ostwestfalen

March 2, 2009. The Foreign Trade Committee of the [Bielefeld office of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) invited Consul General Matt Boyse to its most recent meeting March 2 in Paderborn to speak about „Die USA nach der Wahl: Politische und Wirtschaftliche Perspektiven.“ The CG addressed concerns raised in the German business community and media about "Buy American" language in the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#). Commenting that German worries about growing protectionism in the United States are 'much ado about nothing,' the CG stressed that the Obama Administration strongly believes in an open

international trading and investment regime. He also reviewed selected trends in politics and economics in the United States, adding that the international community is looking to other major economies to stimulate their economies more during the current crisis. | [White House > The Agenda > Economy](#)



Consulate Supports "America Day" at Essen High School

February 27, 2009. Consul Chris Grossman and intern Kayla Paulick participated in a special "America Day" at the [Maria Waechtler Gymnasium in Essen](#) on February 27 that was attended by nearly 200 students. In a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the long history of cultural and political ties between the two countries, Grossman discussed current issues such as the struggle against extremism, climate change and the economic crisis, all of which the United States and Germany are working to address together. Consulate intern Kayla Paulick visited five different classes of 9th graders that day discussing and answering questions about American high schools, culture and lifestyle. | ["Meet US" School Outreach Program](#)



A Timely Program on the American Dream and Equality in Wesel

February 25, 2009. On February 25, Deputy Consul General Chris Grossman discussed the American Dream with students at the [Konrad Duden Gymnasium in Wesel](#). Addressing approximately 100 students (aged 17-18) in the audience, who had recently been learning about the concept of the American Dream, Grossman traced the origins of the idea from the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution through the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The presentation included a discussion of the Civil Rights movement and the "I Have a Dream" speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. The students were particularly interested in the idea that the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States represented a fulfillment of the American Dream mentioned by King in this famous speech. | ["Meet US" School Outreach Program](#)



Consul General Advocates U.S. Interests in Business Magazine

February 2009. The [February edition of the Duesseldorf Chamber of Commerce monthly magazine](#), which focuses on the U.S. as a key partner of North Rhine-Westphalia, features a four-page interview with Consul General Matt Boyse that underscores the mutually beneficial bilateral economic and investment relationship. Responding to questions by Rheinische Post economic editor Antje Hoening, the Consul General notes the concentrated presence of U.S. businesses and consulting firms in NRW employing at least 112,000 people, and the equally impressive number of NRW firms in the U.S. In the article he also praises Duesseldorf as an international hub with an excellent economic infrastructure and a generally business-friendly attitude which in his view accounts for the enormous and expanding transatlantic connections. | [Interview in IHK Magazine](#) | [NRW - USA Partnership: Benchmarking Success](#)



After The Munich Security Conference: Prospects For German-American Cooperation On Foreign/Security Policy

February 11, 2009. Consul General Matt Boyse welcomed [Dr. Jackson Janes, Executive Director of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in Washington](#), to our latest roundtable event at his residence on February 11. Janes gave an overview of the initial steps and initiatives of the Obama Administration and offered informed insights from the Munich Security Conference the previous weekend. He emphasized that the goodwill in Germany and in Europe towards the new

Administration needs to result in a more effective transatlantic power and burden sharing and that Germany will need to play a key role in this recalibration of the U.S.-German global partnership. The discussion with the expert audience focused on how the economic crisis might affect the foreign policy agenda and also on such challenges as Afghanistan and Iran. Preceding the event, Dr. Janes and CG Boyse both gave interviews to regional [NRW-TV editor Roger Horné](#). | [Watch the video](#)



1000 Energy Experts At Essen Congress Briefed On The Obama-Biden Energy Plan

February 10, 2009. An Embassy/Consulate-sponsored visitor, [Aaron Best](#), was a keynote speaker at the [13th Expert Congress on Future Energies in Essen](#) on February 10. Addressing some 1000 experts from the NRW state government, the business community, and research institutes, Best, a Fellow at the [Institute for International and European Environmental Policy](#), explained current thinking in the U.S. on energy issues, with special focus on the Obama Administration's priorities. Noting that it would take some time for the new government to formulate a detailed energy and environmental policy, Best emphasized the many new opportunities inherent in [President Obama's renewed focus on energy and environmental issues](#) and also introduced some of the key players in this effort.



Exchange Opportunities Explained At Cologne Youth Fair

February 10, 2009. At the [all-day youth fair 'Wege ins Ausland'](#) at [Cologne University](#) on February 10 approx. 2,000 students took advantage of the opportunity to gather information about studying or interning in the U.S. Established in 2006, 'Wege ins Ausland' has become one of the most frequented exchange fairs in NRW. Exchanges specialist Petra Spitz represented the U.S. Consulate Duesseldorf, answering questions about application procedures and visa regulations. She was assisted by consulate intern Kayla Paulick from [California State University at Chico](#), who provided hands-on information about what it is like to study at an American college. The annual youth fair is organized by the Thomas Morus Akademie in Bensberg, the Bundesagentur fuer Arbeit and Euroguidance.



Photo Exhibit Documents Walter Gropius' First America Tour 1928

February 9, 2009. A [photo exhibit documenting the first trip to America of Bauhaus architect Walter Gropius](#) in 1928 opened at Galerie im Kolkmannshaus in Wuppertal on February 9. A joint project of Wuppertal University's Art & Design Department and the [Bauhaus Archiv in Berlin](#) -- and supported by the Consulate -- the exhibit features vintage photos of sky scraper architecture taken by Gropius and his wife Ise in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, as well as such industrial architecture as the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. In their welcome remarks at the vernissage, University President Lambert Koch, co-curator Professor Gerda Breuer and Consul General Matt Boyse paid tribute to Walter Gropius as an innovative architect and an important figure in transatlantic cultural exchange. | [More Information & Photo Gallery](#)



The Presidency of Barack Obama

February 5, 2009. On February 5, five Duesseldorf [Rotary Clubs](#) hosted Consul General Matt Boyse for a special joint dinner at the [Industrie-Club](#) devoted to the Obama Administration's priorities. The Consul General gave the more than 100 guests an overview of the [first meeting between Secretary Clinton and German Foreign Minister Steinmeier in Washington](#) on February 3 and summarized the Administration's thinking on a variety

of foreign policy challenges important to both countries.



Discussing Equality And Civil Rights On The Birthday Of Rosa Parks

February 4, 2009. On February 4, Deputy Consul Chris Grossman participated in an event celebrating the life and work of late civil rights activist Rosa Parks on her birthday with students at [a high school in Herten that was recently renamed in her honor](#). Following speeches by the Mayor and the school principal, as well as an enactment by students of major events in

Ms. Parks' life, Chris Grossman in his keynote address reviewed the history of the civil rights movement in the United States and, illustrating his presentation with pertinent visuals, explained the broader significance of the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States.



U.S. Experts at International Bielefeld Conference

February 3 – 5, 2009. The [9th International Conference](#) (Feb. 3-5, 2009), organized by Bielefeld University Library, provided insights into the future of eLibraries, innovative technologies, new concepts of knowledge networking, and economic issues involved in today's library management. The event, with lectures by expert speakers from the university and commercial and business sector, drew 400 international

professionals in the field. U.S. speakers included Joan K. Lippincott (Coalition for Networked Information, Washington, DC), Wendy Pradt Lougee (University of Minnesota), Carol Tenopir (University of Tennessee) and Lee Dirks from Microsoft's External Research Division, Redmond, WA. | [Conference Website](#) | [Photo Gallery](#)



America after the Elections

February 2, 2009. On February 2, Consul General Matt Boyse spoke on President Obama's priorities at an event organized by the [Rumi Forum am Rhein e.V.](#), a platform established in 2008 by Germans of Turkish origin to enhance dialogue between Germans and immigrants. Taking part in the group's "Conversations on the Rhine" series, the Consul General summarized for the 30 guests the main ideas underlying the Administration's domestic and foreign policy initiatives and discussed some of the challenges they face.

Major Retrospective of American Artist Brice Marden in Kleve



February 1, 2009. An [exhibition of 100 works documenting the print work of American expressionist Brice Marden](#) opened at Museum Kurhaus Kleve on February 1. At the opening, attended by 200 guests, Consul General Matt Boyse reviewed the impressive presence of American art in North Rhine-Westphalia and the extent of bilateral cultural exchanges and

thanked Museum director Guido de Werd and his team for regularly presenting American artists in high quality exhibitions. The Consulate's support for the Brice Marden retrospective was

gratefully acknowledged by Mayor Theodor Brauer and also listed in the accompanying catalogue. The exhibition at Museum Kurhaus Kleve, which was named the "Museum of the Year 2004," will offer the German public an opportunity to discover the Brice Marden whose works are in major collections but who has yet to be fully discovered in Germany.



Duisburg Museum Features Another American Artist

January 31, 2009. An exhibit dedicated to the work of the prominent American artist David Smith and supported by the Consulate General opened at Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg on January 31. After introductions to Smith's work by Peter Stevens, Director of the artist's estate, and Museum Director Dr. Christoph Brockhaus, Consul General

Matt Boyse described briefly to the 150 guests the large American presence in the arts in North Rhine-Westphalia, not only in the cultural but also music, theater, and dance world.



The New Administration – New Impulses for Transatlantic Relations

January 28, 2009. At a roundtable hosted by Consul General Matt Boyse at his residence on January 28, William Drozdiak, American Council on Germany in New York, briefed a group of senior editors, government officials and analysts on the emerging foreign policy/security agenda of the Obama Administration. Drozdiak mentioned human rights (closure of

Guantanamo), new environmental policies as well as an initiative to advance nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as key elements. The discussion with the expert audience focused on how the economic crisis might affect the foreign policy agenda and also on specific areas for transatlantic cooperation such as Afghanistan and Iran.



Stewart O'Nan Finds Captive Audience in Cologne

January 27, 2009. American author Stewart O'Nan fascinated a large audience of literature buffs at a reading/discussion event hosted by Cologne's Literaturhaus on January 27. A prolific author, O'Nan is the author of a dozen books, but defies easy characterization as a novelist, belonging as much in the company of Cheever and Updike as he does with Stephen King. His most recent novel "Songs for the Missing" (just translated into German) is an insightful account into what happens to a missing teenager's family and friends when the short attention span of the TV cameras is exhausted. O'Nan read passages from his book and

discussed his writing in an engaging dialogue with Cologne Mayor and literature enthusiast Angela Spizig.



Obama and His Policy of Change: Two Analyses

January 21, 2009. The day after the inauguration, on January 21, an audience of 150 filled the conference room of the German exchange and development organization InWent in Bonn for a transatlantic panel discussion on the new Administration. Moderated by WDR-TV deputy chief foreign affairs editor Arnd Henze, U.S. political analyst John

Hulsman and Rolf Muetzenich, SPD member of the Bundestag and his party's spokesman on foreign policy issues, offered an initial assessment of what the new Administration may hold in store for transatlantic relations. Acknowledging the seriousness of current global challenges,

economically and in terms of pressing security issues, both panelists noted the chances of a fresh start in transatlantic cooperation based on close consultations and a willingness to address global issues constructively and without delay.



500 Guests at the Consulate's Inauguration Reception in Duesseldorf Cheer the new President

January 20, 2009. The [state parliament \(Landtag\)](#) of North Rhine-Westphalia in Duesseldorf was the venue of a memorable January 20 reception hosted by the Consulate, in conjunction with the Landtag and the Amerika Haus Association on Inauguration Day. More than 500 guests, representing a cross-section of contacts from across the state, filled the

upper lobby of the parliament, watching live coverage of the ceremony and interrupting the new president's inaugural address with applause. Consul General Matt Boyse and Landtag Vice-President Angela Freimuth, and Amerika Haus Association Chair Jeane von Oppenheim addressed the guests, with the CG and Landtag VP later delivering toasts to President Barack Obama and to German-American friendship and global partnership. Many guests commented that they were thrilled to witness the inauguration at such an inspiring event and expressed their good wishes for the new President and his Administration. The event received prominent coverage in regional electronic and print media. | [Press Release Landtag](#) | [Photo Gallery](#) | [WDR Lokalzeit](#) | [Transcript of The President's Inaugural Address](#) | [More about the Inauguration](#)



Martin Luther King, Barack Obama, and AmCham

January 19, 2009. On January 19 in Duesseldorf, Consul General Matt Boyse addressed some 300 guests at the annual New Year's reception hosted by the [American Chamber of Commerce](#) North Rhine-Westphalia regional organization. As the event took place on Martin Luther King Day, the Consul General highlighted the achievements of the civil rights leader, who paved the way for President-elect Obama to take the oath of

office the following day. The CG also reviewed the findings of Mission Germany's pamphlet "The German-American Partnership: Benchmarking Success," which i.e. quantifies and summarizes the vast bilateral investment and trade relationship. The CG reminded the audience that the new ESTA travel regulations are extremely easy to complete, and encouraged travelers and potential travelers to register early. | [The German-American Partnership: Benchmarking Success](#) (pdf) | [Deutsch-amerikanische Partnerschaft: Den Erfolg messen](#) (pdf) | [NRW - USA Partnership: Benchmarking Success](#) (pdf)



The Power of Networks: Consul General Honors Representatives of German-American Associations and Sister-City Partnerships

January 14, 2009. At a January 14 reception at his residence, Consul General Matt Boyse honored representatives from 23 sister-city partnerships, 16 German-American organizations, and 9 individuals involved in the bilateral relationship from across North Rhine-Westphalia.

The event was an occasion to present Certificates of Appreciation signed by former Ambassador Timken and the Consul General, to intensify the cooperation between the Consulate and partner organizations, as well as foster communication and exchange between the organizations themselves and their leaders. This event also launched a series of workshops that will involve all institutions active in promoting German-American relations, to be held at regular intervals in order to support their activities and generate synergies. | [Westfaelische Nachrichten](#)



Consulate Informs About Visa Free Travel to the United States

January 2009. Starting January 12th, 2009, all international travelers seeking to travel to the United States under the [Visa Waiver Program](#) are required to register electronically via the ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) Program prior to their travel. In interviews to ZDF, WDR-TV, NRW.TV and regional print media, Consul General Matt Boyse explained the new service to emphasize that new electronic registration is easy to complete, approval in more than 99 percent of cases comes within seconds, and asks virtually identical questions as in the past. On January 9, the Consulate also conducted a workshop for ADAC travel agents from across North Rhine Westphalia with experts from Consulate General Frankfurt to provide information and practical training on the new registration requirement. Further information on ESTA is available at <http://germany.usembassy.gov/esta>.



Discussing 2008 Election and Inauguration with Cologne High School Students

January 9, 2009. On January 9, Deputy Consul General Chris Grossman addressed students at the [Ursulinen high school](#) in Cologne. The discussion involved a description of the American electoral process and the Electoral College, as well as a discussion of the transition from the Bush to Obama administrations and the upcoming inauguration of President Elect Barack Obama. The students were particularly interested in discussing prospects for success for the incoming administration. The wide ranging questions from the students highlighted a very sophisticated knowledge of American and world politics. | [Meet US School Outreach Program](#)



Study in the United States

January 7, 2009. [EducationUSA](#) specialist Petra Spitz was one of four experts at a public exchanges event hosted by [Duesseldorf University's International Office](#) on January 7. Spitz gave a presentation on how to apply at American colleges, visa regulations and procedures and financial support by American universities. Other speakers discussed financial support available through German sources and [TOEFL test requirements](#). In addition, Duesseldorf psychology professor Ute Bayen, who lived and taught at the University of North Carolina for over a decade, explained how studying in the U.S. would benefit the students' professional careers in Europe.



Interest in the President-Elect at Record Levels

January 7, 2009. During a January 7 event at the Industrie-Club in Düsseldorf, Consul General Matt Boyse spoke to some 35 members of the "Economic Circle" on the legacy of the Bush and the priorities of the incoming Obama Administration, as well as on the constraints and domestic and international context in which it will begin its work. The Consul General noted that while expectations for change in U.S. policy are high in Germany, President-elect Obama and Secretary of State-designate Clinton will also be looking for change in the policies of global partners like Germany to better surmount current challenges. The incoming foreign policy team will be in a listening mode with its allies and partners, which makes the content of the German message to Washington all the more important. The Consul General also summarized the massive economic and people-to-people relationship between the United States and Germany, and the U.S. and North Rhine-Westphalia in particular.

